2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

16 May 2005

Original: English

New York, 2-27 May 2005

European Union common approach

Cooperative Threat Reduction-Global Partnership initiative

Working paper submitted by Luxembourg on behalf of the European Union

1. During the preparatory process and the general debate of the Review Conference many delegations, including the presidency of the European Union, have highlighted the importance of the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR)-Global Partnership initiative and its relevance to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. This concept was also presented to the Conference on Disarmament and to the First Committee of the General Assembly.

2. The following considerations regarding the relevance of the CTR-Global Partnership for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are submitted below to the Review Conference:

(a) The nuclear arms reduction process, which has been developed in the past decades, has brought to the surface the enormous technical and financial problems connected with the actual elimination of nuclear weapons. The CTR-Global Partnership is one of the multilateral efforts aimed at addressing those problems;

(b) Canada, the European Union (and many of its member States on a national basis), Japan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States of America, and other countries have worked together, in particular under the CTR initiative, to secure and dismantle nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, materials, carriers and infrastructure. The culminating moment of those initiatives took place in Kananaskis, Canada, in June 2002, when the leaders of the Group of Eight (G-8) countries announced a "Global Partnership" against the spread of weapons and materials of mass destruction. Participants at the Summit pledged to raise up to US$ 20 billion over the following 10 years to address these threats;

(c) At a time when nuclear proliferation is a growing threat to international peace and security and when the risk that terrorists may seek access to nuclear weapons or to nuclear materials adds a new dimension to that threat, the

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CTR-Global Partnership is a significant, additional way to accelerate the nuclear disarmament process;

(d) The nuclear component of the CTR-Global Partnership initiative is relevant to the review process of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and strengthens the Treaty both under article VI and under article I. In particular, the de-activation of thousands of nuclear warheads under this programme is to be considered an effective measure relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament;

(e) Many of the measures undertaken under the CTR-Global Partnership, such as the dismantlement of nuclear submarines, efforts to convert military stockpiles into a form no longer usable in nuclear weapons, respond to the objectives laid down in articles I and II of the Treaty;

(f) The CTR-Global Partnership initiative deals with highly sensitive materials and equipment. The fact that they have become the object of international cooperation enhances transparency and confidence. The initiative thus strengthens trust between States and facilitates the cessation of the manufacture of nuclear weapons, as envisaged in the preambular part of the Treaty;

(g) The CTR-Global Partnership initiative has facilitated accession to the Treaty by a number of countries, thus strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime. Other countries may join the initiative both as donors and as recipients.

3. **The Review Conference is invited to recognize the importance, from the point of view of nuclear disarmament, of the programmes for the destruction and the elimination of nuclear weapons and the elimination of fissile material as defined under the G-8 Global Partnership.**